

ADVISORY COUNCIL

The SJRMP Advisory Council is concerned with becoming informed on the overall river system, its complex problems, and ongoing efforts to correct those problems. During the first year of meetings, speakers from private and public organizations presented educational information regularly. A list of education briefings and the names of the presenters is included in Appendix A. More recently, the number of educational briefings has been reduced to allow more time for discussion of specific proposed activities.

The Advisory Council has been instrumental in initiating actions to benefit the river. Examples include:

- Bringing together interested agencies to provide adequate funding for water hyacinth eradication. As a result, an eradication program is in operation on the Merced River.
- Requesting that the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers analyze a change in the methodology of reservoir release regulations at Friant Dam during rain-flood events. As a result, the Corps is proceeding with implementation of a change in operations.
- Requesting that the Corps investigate peak flow operations on five reservoirs in addition to Friant.
- Encouraging continuation of negotiations between the Department of Fish and Game and the Central California Irrigation District to change the current operation of Mendota Pool so that the water level is maintained until December for increased waterfowl use.
- Offering assistance to counties and cities within the study area on planning activities related to the San Joaquin River and its tributaries.
- Requesting that the Department of Water Resources and The Reclamation Board conduct a reconnaissance study of partial aggradation control in the San Joaquin River.
- Requesting that the California Data Exchange Center establish a real-time water quality monitoring network on the San Joaquin River system. Real-time monitoring provides instantaneous collection and transmission of data so that water management decisions can be made in a timely and beneficial manner.
- Providing direction to the Action Team.

The Advisory Council is also working closely with both the Corps and the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation on programs to improve the water-related environment in the San Joaquin River Basin. Coordination is necessary to ensure that the programs are complementary and that work is not duplicated. Through these programs, the Corps and the Bureau will

provide financial and technical assistance to SJRMP to accomplish necessary studies and activities to assist in meeting the program goals. Following is a brief description of Corps and Bureau efforts.

The Corps is funded to participate in SJRMP in connection with its San Joaquin River mainstem environmental project investigation. SJRMP identified the need for a reconnaissance study to investigate flooding problems related to insufficient channel capacity on the San Joaquin River. The Corps has agreed to conduct this study as part of its mainstem study.

SJRMP is working with the Bureau on its San Joaquin River Basin Resource Management Initiative. The Initiative requires 50/50 cost-sharing with the State. The State is meeting its obligation by providing in-kind services in lieu of a cash contribution. The Bureau's Initiative Program is to identify opportunities to improve the water-related environment in the San Joaquin River Basin with particular emphasis on fisheries, wetlands, and water quality and to develop an implementation plan and recommended course of action. The initiative will be an integral part of and will be fully coordinated with SJRMP.

Currently, the Bureau is investigating the possibility of providing aerial photographs to develop a geographic information system of the entire San Joaquin River system that will benefit both the initiative and SJRMP. In addition, the Bureau is providing funds for the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service to participate in SJRMP and have a member of its staff serve as co-chair of the wildlife subcommittee.